

“Learning to Hear God’s Voice”

Genesis 18

Three prerequisites for hearing God’s voice:

1. I must realize that God cares about the details of my life.

Matthew 6:31-32 “Don’t worry about what you eat or drink or wear. Your heavenly father knows you need these things.”

2. You need to ask a specific question.

James 1:5 “If you want to know what God wants you to do ask him and he’ll gladly tell you.”

3. Believe He wants to answer.

James 1:5, 6 “God is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask Him. He won’t resent it. But when you ask him, be sure you really expect him to tell you.”

Principle: Sometimes God speaks to us in ways that we least expect him to.

Why would God disguise himself?

- If God didn’t disguise himself, no one would ever see him at all.
- He does it so that he might be seen only by those with eyes of faith.
- God often appears in disguise so that he might test our motives.

Matthew 25:40 “Whatever you did for the one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Principle: We often entertain God’s presence when we aren’t aware of it.

Romans 12:13 “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

1 Peter 4:9 “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.”

Hebrews 13:2 “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Why is hospitality so important? It offers a test of the practicality of our faith. It breaks down barriers between people. It opens doors for the gospel.

Principle: Recognizing God’s voice in our lives takes faith.

Hebrews 11:1 “Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

Principle: Our faith is not in our faith but in God’s character!

Romans 4:19-21 “Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”

Principle: Biblical faith is that God has everything figured out at an appointed time and we trust him until we get there.

Principle: When God speaks, begin to pray in faith!

Principle: When God speaks, begin to persist in prayer.

Principle: God speaks to His friends.

John 15:15 “No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

Four principles of prevailing prayer:

1. We must draw near to His presence.
2. We must appeal to His person.
3. We must have the right perspective.
4. We must persevere in our pleading.

How can we hear God speak?

1. Withdraw

Luke 5:16 “Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

2. Wait

Romans 8:1 “There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ.”

- Relax your body. “Be still and know that I am God.” Psalms 46:10
- Be silent. “For God alone my; soul waits in silence.” Psalms 62:5

3. Watch

Ephesians 1:18 “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which He has called you.”

John 3:3 “Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of heaven.”

4. Write

5. Worship